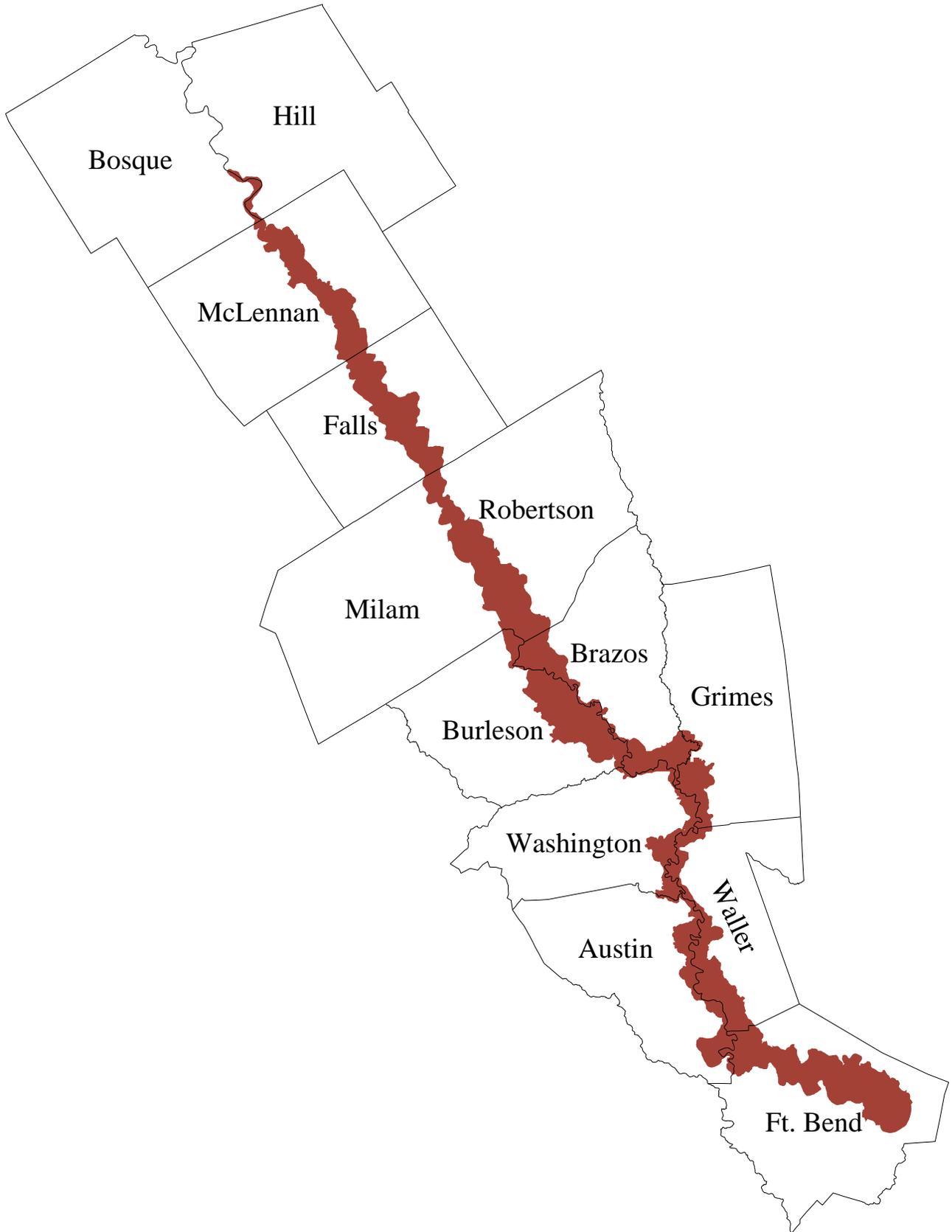


Brazos River Alluvium



Brazos River Alluvium Aquifer

Water-bearing alluvial sediments occur in floodplain and terrace deposits of the Brazos River of southeast Texas. The Brazos River Alluvium aquifer, up to seven miles wide, stretches for 350 miles along the sinuous course of the river between southern Hill and Bosque counties and eastern Fort Bend County. Irrigation accounts for almost all of the pumpage from the aquifer.

The Quaternary alluvial sediments consist of clay, silt, sand, and gravel, and generally are coarsest in the lower part of the accumulations. Saturated thickness of the alluvium is as much as 85 feet or more, with maximum thickness occurring in the central and southeastern parts of the aquifer. Some wells yield up to 1,000 gal/min, but the majority yield between 250 gal/min and 500 gal/min.

The chemical quality of the ground water varies widely. In many areas, concentrations of dissolved solids exceed 1,000 mg/l. Most of the Brazos River Valley irrigated with this ground water contains soils sufficiently permeable to alleviate any soil salinity problems. In some places, the water from the aquifer is fresh enough to meet drinking water standards.

References

Cronin, J.G., and Wilson, C.A., 1967, Ground water in the flood-plain alluvium of the Brazos River, Whitney Dam to vicinity of Richmond, Texas: TWDB Rept. 41, 206 p.